GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3100
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ATTRACTIVE RATES FOR WLL
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that new attractive rates for Wireless in Local Loop have been announced by Reliance and Indocom recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has called for an explanation from the said companies with regard to the attractive rates announced by them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether TRAI propose to take any step against such companies; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A PRADHAN)

(a) & (b): Tariffs for Telecommunication services are to be as per orders of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued from time to time . TRAI allows Alternate Tariff Plans for subscribers. Reliance and Tata Teleservices have reported several alternative tariff plans with various combination of rental and call charges.

(c) to (f): It came to the notice of TRAI that Reliance is offering Wireless in Local Loop (Limited Mobile) (WLL (M)) connections through Monsoon Hangama scheme for an initial payment of Rs. 501/- which includes provisioning of handsets also. The TRAI suo-moto took up the matter and called Reliance to explain the details of the plan and offer of handset. The issue of regulating the price of handsets was further deliberated by TRAI and the TRAI is of the view that the prices of the handsets are not regulated. All tariff plans must be seen without the cost of handset incurred by the subscriber. TRAI has directed that all tariff plans on offer should be available to customers whether he/she buys the handset from the operator or not. A press release was issued on 17th July 2003.

Moreover, TRAI has also issued on 1st August 2003 guidelines on tariff format for consumer information to be published by telecom service providers for their plans. These guidelines are intended to help the consumer to be better aware of the overall financial expenditure incurred under the available tariff package before exercising his option for any particular scheme.